Amendments to the Specification

Replace Paragraph 1, on Page 11 with the following paragraph:

In a third example, the owner 120 anticipates buying a refrigerator, but does not know when, where, from whom or at what price. Accordingly, the owner 120 employs the security features of the present invention in a manner consistent with this objective and in view of the lack of information. Therefore, the owner 120 merely designates the item name (refrigerator) or item category (household appliances, kitchen appliances, or the like) as the selected parameter data PD_3 and receives an authentication code AC_3 from the bank 160. The owner 120 may then successfully use the card 110 along with the authentication code AC_3 on any time/date, at any location, with any merchant 140 and for any amount of money. Therefore, the owner 120 and the bank 160 are protected if the card 110 is lost, stolen or hacked because the card 110 and the authentication code AC_3 can only be successfully used for a specific type of transaction. For instance, if the owner 120 selects the item name, then only refrigerator purchases are allowed. On the other hand, if the owner 120 selects the item category, then only appliance (refrigerator, dish washer, microwave, etc.) purchases are allowed.

Replace Paragraph 2, on Page 11 with the following paragraph:

In a forth example, the owner 120 wishes to allow another designated person (spouse, child, etc.) to conduct a transaction using the card 110. In this case, the owner 120 contemplates allowing the owner's child to purchase stereo [equipments] equipment as a present. However, the owner 120 does not know when, where or from whom the child may make the purchase. Additionally, the owner 120 wishes to place a limit on the transaction amount. Accordingly, the owner 120 employs the security features of the present invention in a manner consistent with these

objectives and in view of the lack of information. Therefore, the owner 120 merely designates the item category (consumer electronics, stereo equipment, or the like) and a predetermined transaction amount as a price limit as the selected parameter data PD_{4a} and PD_{4a}, respectively. Then, the owner 120 receives an authentication code AC_4 from the bank 160 and provides it to the child. The child may then successfully use the card 110 along with the authentication code AC_4 on any time/date, at any location, with any merchant 140, for a limited purpose (stereo) and for a limited amount of money. Therefore, the owner 120 and the bank 160 are protected if the card 110 is lost, stolen or hacked because the card 110 and the authentication code AC_4 can only be successfully used for a specific type of transaction. Accordingly, the child may not use the card 110 for other purchases (alcohol, automobile, etc.) that have not been specified by the owner 120.